

## The Evening Herald.

Published by  
THE EVENING HERALD, INC.  
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H. B. HENNING, Editor  
Published every afternoon except Sunday, at 124 North Second Street, Albuquerque, N. M.

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Albuquerque, N. M., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

One month by mail or carrier, 50c  
One week by carrier, 10c  
One year by mail or carrier, \$5.00  
In advance

### Telephones:

Business Office, 163  
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### THE COUNTY TAX ROLLS.

**A**N AMENDMENT to the constitution of New Mexico will go before the people in November, which, if adopted, would abolish the state board of equalization. Yet the state board of equalization seems to be about the only official force in the state which has taken any intelligent interest in the assessment of property for taxation, in order that the state and the counties therein may have a revenue to support the government.

The total assessed valuation of the state of New Mexico as brought in by the county assessors, after passing through the hands of the county commissioners, is \$74,600,000.

The total assessed valuation of the state last year—after raises had been made by the state board of equalization—was \$78,000,000. The county taxing authorities, therefore, tell us one of two things. Either there has been a direct tangible shrinkage of \$3,400,000 in assessed valuations in the several counties, or they, the county taxing authorities, have not done their duty. We do not believe, and we hold that no other intelligent man in New Mexico believes, that there has been a five-million-dollar shrinkage in the total value of property in this state during the past twelve months. You can have one guess as to our conclusion.

The state board of equalization has increased the valuation placed upon the property of the railroads in New Mexico by about \$2,000,000. This is absolutely the only material increase that has been made upon any important classification of property. Railroad values are the only ones which the state board has power to fix. The state board, plainly, has sought to do its duty. It has been partially effective; but it has failed completely to bring the county taxing authorities into any kind of harmonious co-operation with it in its efforts.

Nothing is to be gained by scolding the assessors. It is said that many of the assessors are more interested in securing the permanent enlargement of their salaries than they are in getting property onto the tax rolls. This is probably true. But it is not the fault of the assessors that our taxation system is a joke. It is the fault of the system, a system of legalized tax dodging, established and brought to a high stage of perfection by the interests which have ruled this state for years past, through the willing machinery of the Republican organization.

Look at the Eddy county tax roll, to which attention naturally is called, since it is the last of the delayed ones to come in. That roll places the actual value of property in Eddy county at \$12,900,000. That alone is a ghastly joke. The county proposes to pay taxes upon \$4,000,000. About one-half of the farm crops raised in that county are entirely absent from the tax rolls. Various classes of personal property subject to taxation are not noted. There would be some sense in "jumping on" Eddy county's taxing officials if it were alone in its sorry plight. But the Eddy county roll is a model of completeness compared to several of the others; and all are more travesties upon a county assessment. The fault is in the system.

There have been good Republicans in legislatures in the past; men who have striven honestly for taxation reform. They have been hopelessly powerless against the Republican machine. Doubtless there will be competent, honest men on the Republican legislative ticket in many districts this year. But what good will it do the people to elect these men? They will be utterly helpless to do anything, as against the machine which would continue to rule, should a majority of Republicans get into the assembly. The fault is in the system. There can be no change in the system expected from the men and the machine who made it.

A new deal in legislatures is the only hope of this state; the election of a solid Democratic house; composed of free, untrammeled men who can go about the business of remaking our taxation system undeterred by a single "obligation," string or bomb.

### THE FAIR AMUSEMENTS.

**W**HICH is the State Fair commission upon the liberality it has shown in the matter of providing high class amusements for the people of the state at the coming annual fair. In the past the chief criticism upon the state fair has been that it "ran too much to amusements" and not enough to the development and exhibit side.

It would not be surprising should the state fair commission, an official body, go to the other extreme in seeking to discharge its duty and conduct the fair "for the advancement and development of the natural resources of the state," as it is charged to do in the creating act.

The commission, however, appears to have exercised good sound judgment and has reached a happy medium; a balance of the amusement side against the exhibit side which we believe will make this year's fair the most successful the state has ever known.

The commission has secured the best carnival aggregation in existence in America at present. It has done more; it has assured itself that these shows are absolutely clean and have even caused two of the sixteen shows to be excluded and substitutes made in the contract, because these two were open to some possible charge of being off color. Three big bands of music have been secured. In addition to two aeroplane demonstrations daily there are offered several of the most sensational "acts" ever put on at any fair or exposition. There are other "stunts" which the commission is working for and which will add materially to the volume and variety of amusement offered to the fair visitors. It will be a week of splendid entertainment.

But where the fair commission is showing its greatest skill in management is in its handling of the exhibit department. Plans have been devised for making every section of the exhibits attractive. A man who will not go to look at a "pumpkin show" will go to the pumpkin show section to hear an illustrated lecture about pumpkins or carrots or almost anything else. A man who is not interested in livestock at all will go out or his way to watch horse judging stock for a substantial cash prize. Through the whole exhibit section something more than the mere exhibit is added; something new and interest-compelling.

These facts assure us of the best and the biggest fair this state has ever had. It means a great forward step in the fair's development. It means a bigger fair in 1915 and in each succeeding year. The institution is being developed on all sides, with a balance which is bound to make it successful.

Another and a most encouraging feature is in the great interest shown in the fair throughout the state. Manager Binkert says in an interview in the Herald today that eastern New Mexico is to make a splendid exhibit of its farm products and livestock. The demand for the premium books is such, he says, as to assure a splendid line of individual exhibits. In the most prosperous year the state has enjoyed for many years past we seem to have hit just the right gait with the state fair. The complete success that now seems certain for this year's fair means the enlargement and permanent establishment of the fair on a basis with the big annual shows of the older states. Success this year will mean that the state fair, supported for thirty-two years by Albuquerque alone, will have arrived as a full-fledged state institution.

### WHAT ARE THEY WORTH?

**U**NLESS we are utterly mistaken in the present temper of the people of New Mexico, any man who has the temerity to introduce a demand for a return to the old-time scale of granting county salaries into the next legislature will be figuratively if not literally mobbed. Thus far no candidate for the legislature has come forward on any save a low salary platform; the declaration being usually for salaries in proportion to the public service performed.

That there should ever be any return to the old days when sheriffs in Bernalillo and other counties dragged down \$15,000 to \$25,000 a year and treasurers took away with them \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year without being endangered by the district attorney is of course impossible. But there is danger in being indefinite in this matter. What do the candidates mean by payment in proportion to the public service performed? What are our county officers worth to us in dollars and cents? How much of our cash should they receive for being our county clerks and assessors and treasurers—and sheriffs? There should be definite expression from the people on this subject, and the plan for public hearings proposed for this county by the Democratic committee is one very effective way of getting at a definite basis; a basis upon which the candidate can plainly pledge himself and upon

which he must stand. The plan is one which could be carried out with profit to the people, regardless of politics, in every county in the state.

One legislator's idea of the value of a public service may be \$1000 a year for the county treasurer; another may hold that service worth \$1500. This question is one on which the people should get down to brass tacks with their candidates and on which a complete understanding and a working understanding and agreement would be inevitable.

On this matter of the county treasurer's pay, it has been suggested that a practical basis might be reached by paying that official for the actual amount of work his office does. In Quay county, for instance, where the number of small holdings is large, the treasurer issues several times as many receipts for taxes as does the treasurer of one of the older counties of the same class, where large holdings prevail. To pay the treasurer on the basis of the number of tax receipts issued between reasonable maximum and minimum amounts has been proposed as one practical way to settle the vexed question of what this office is worth to the people. Certainly it is not worth \$4500 a year in any county in the state. The question of financial responsibility should have no effect upon fixing the salary. The treasurer is of necessity covered through an adequate bond. He is, or should be, under constant check from the county commission and the traveling auditor's department. We refer to this particular office and this particular suggestion as illustrative of what might be expected to be brought out in the way of popular ideas before a committee holding public hearings with a view to determining what the people think our county salaries should be; what our county office service is worth, and of reporting the popular judgment in definite form to their party conventions where legislators are supposed to receive final instructions from their constituents upon general public issues.

### Tuberculosis Census to be Made by Churches

A tuberculosis census of thousands of churches in various parts of the country will be taken in September, under the direction of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. The census will be part of the preparation for the fifth annual Tuberculosis day to be observed during the week of November 29th.

The ministers of several thousand churches will be asked to report on the number of deaths from tuberculosis in the last year, the number of living cases in their parishes on September 1st, the number of deaths from all causes, and the number of members or communicants. These figures will be made the basis of an educational campaign, which will culminate in the Tuberculosis day movement, for which on some sermon and lecture outlines and other forms of tuberculosis literature will be distributed free to ministers.

Last year nearly 75,000 churches, schools and other bodies took part in the Tuberculosis day observance. The movement had the endorsement of leading church officials of every denomination. More than 1200 anti-tuberculosis societies scattered all over the country will work this year to make Tuberculosis day a success.

### Fergusson Safe in Leaving it to the People

(Carrizozo News.) While Republican candidates for congress are snapping and snarling at each other, Congressman Fergusson remains on duty at Washington, content to let his party and the people of New Mexico decide the issue. It is well. New Mexico never had a more faithful, efficient and intelligent congressman and it would be idle to say the people had failed to watch and approve the course of his representative. Fergusson has no opposition for the Democratic nomination, and his election is just as certain as that the 3rd of November is to come. Faithful and loyal service to the interests of the people of New Mexico, irrespective of party, has been Fergusson's policy at the national capital and it would be ungrateful for the people to fail to properly reward him.

### Much More Certain Than New Mexico Taxes

(Montezuma Republican.) The Carrizozo Outlook of last week gives another account of a party being killed by lightning. The account states that all of the man's clothing, as well as shoes, were torn into bits and his bones shivered and body badly burned. There have been quite a number of deaths this season among men and animals from this unexplained cause and the electrical disturbance in the atmosphere seems to grow in volume and intensity as the cloudy weather continues. We may doze the tax gathered and our creditors, or hide ourselves from whomsoever we please, but this invisible and powerful force of the elements is something no one can avoid if they happen to be struck out as its victim and it is therefore advisable to be prepared at all times to meet such a fate.

## Great Trials of History

### TRIAL OF ANNE ASKEW.

**T**HE tragedy of Anne Askew is one of the most pathetic in the annals of English history. She was a martyr to religion and at a period when many others were compelled to suffer through a strict adherence to their faith.

Anne Askew, who was the second daughter of Sir William Askew, of an old Lincolnshire family, was reluctantly compelled to give her hand in marriage to Thomas Kyme of Kelso. Her presumption for daring to exceed her own judgment in religious matters so aroused her husband that he drove her with ignominy from his house. To sue for a separation she went to London.

In London she met with a favorable reception at court and was particularly favored by the queen, Catherine Parr, who approved in secret the doctrines of the reformation. In March, 1545, she underwent an examination for heresy, first at Sadler's Hall, before one Christopher Hare, and then before the lord mayor of London, who committed her to the Tower. The substance and particulars of these examinations were written by herself and were published after her death.

On March 23 a relation succeeded, after several attempts, in bailing her, but she was soon apprehended again and summoned before King Henry VIII's council at Greenwich. Here she refused to answer the inquiries with firmness and without prostration. She was remanded to Newgate and not allowed to receive visits from anyone, not even from Dr. Latimer.

Anne herself wrote to the king and chancellor, explaining her opinion; but her letters only served to aggravate her crime. She was then taken to the Tower and interrogated respecting her patrons at court, but she heroically refused to betray them.

Anne's magnanimity served but to increase her persecutors, who endeavored to extort a confession from her by the rack, but she sustained the torture with fortitude and resignation. The chancellor, Wriothesley, commanded the lieutenant of the Tower to strain the instrument of his vengeance. Upon receiving a refusal from 53 inches at the head of Amalik bay, 15 1/2 miles from the mountain, to 2 1/2 inches at the east end of Afognak island, 113 miles from the volcano.

"The effect of the eruption on whatever vegetation clothed the flanks of the volcano was annihilation. The position of the death-line around the volcano came practically down to the sea, 15 miles from the crater. Marine life was affected to a larger degree than would perhaps be expected. Bears, rabbits, reindeer and other animals and birds were made blind. Dead geese, ducks, ptarmigan, snipe, hawks and many small birds were found dead at the mouth of the Kahlinak river. Man was indirectly affected by the eruption through the injury to other animal life and to vegetation. The eruption differs from almost all other known great eruptions in that the immediate damage to property was almost nothing, and that, as far as is known, it was not the direct and sole cause of the loss of a single human life. The sparse settlement of the district alone was responsible for this condition."

### Mt. Katmai—Wonder Among Volcanoes

Mt. Katmai, reported by Captain McMullen of the steamer Drigo to be throwing out great volumes of sulphurous-laden smoke, is a peak 7,500 feet high, situated relatively near the eastern end of the Alaska peninsula and of the Aleutian mountain range. The volcano reports the ocean for a distance of 100 miles to be colored by sulphur dust and pumice. The last eruption of the volcano, in June, 1912, as described in a statement by the National Geographic society at Washington, D. C., compiled from data collected by George C. Martin, the geologist who directed the society's Alaskan volcano expeditions following Mt. Katmai's break, was one of the most violent of historic time.

"All southern Alaska knew at once of Katmai's eruption on the morning of June 6, 1912," reads the society's statement. "The sound of the first mighty explosion carried down the coast as far as Juneau, 350 miles away, and was even heard across the Alaskan range at Dawson and Fairbanks, distant 450 and 500 miles respectively. The column of steam and ash that rose several miles in the air was carried eastward by the wind and within a few hours had shed a shower of ashes all over the east end of the Alaska peninsula, the east half of Kodiak island and all of Afognak island. Intense darkness accompanied the fall and midnight blackness in the daytime extended as far east as the Kenai peninsula. Darkness lasted for sixty hours at Kodiak, 100 miles away. Dust fell as far away as Juneau, Ketchikan and the Yukon valley, 750, 900 and 600 miles. The fumes were reported from points as remote as Vancouver Island and Puget sound, 1,500 miles away. Subsequent terrific explosions occurred at 3 and 11 p. m. of the same day.

"A description of the fall of ashes is given by John E. Thwaites of the steamer Dora, which was 25 miles from the shore when the shower began. 'And now began the real rain of ashes; it fell in torrents; it swirled and eddied,' he says. 'Gravity seemed to have nothing to do with the course of the fall. The under side of the decks seemed to catch as much ash as the sides of the decks under our feet. Bright clusters of electric light could be seen by a few feet away, and we had to feel our way about the decks. It was with the greatest difficulty that the man at the wheel could see the compass, through the thick dust that filled the room. Lurid flashes of lightning glared continuously, while a constant boom of thunder, sometimes coinciding with the flashes, increased the horror of the inferno around us. As far as seeing or hearing anything pertaining to earth, we might as well have been miles above the surface of the water. And still we knew the sun was two hours above the horizon. Birds floundered, crying wildly; through space and fell helpless to the deck.'

Herald want. 3 lines—2 times—3 times.

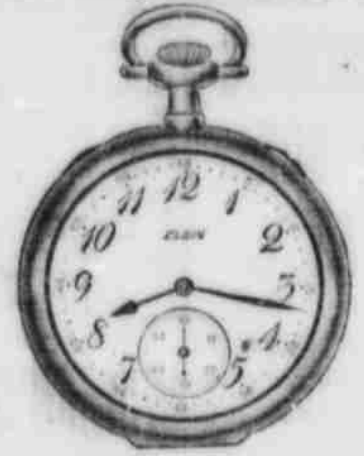
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